

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 06278 240504Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 ACDA-07 /080 W
-----027507 240513Z /16

R 231459Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7908
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN TEL AVIV 6278

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON

- A. BEIRUT 4102
B. USDAO TEL AVIV MSG DTG 221400Z AUG 77, SUBJ:
IR 6 849 0400 77
C. USDAO TEL AVIV MSG DTG 221140Z AUG 77, SUBJ:
IR 6 849 0398 77
1. THIS MSG MAY SERVE AS HELPFUL SEQUEL TO REF A.

2. LATEST INFO AVAILABLE THIS EMBASSY
CONCERNING MILITARY SITUATION SOUTHERN LEBANON IS
CONTAINED IN REFS B AND C. REF C REPORTED ON IDF
ARTILLERY FIRE INTO LEBANON AS WELL AS SOME MINOR
MOVEMENT OF EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH
MILITARY SITUATION.

3. REF B INDICATED THAT ISRAEL HAD NO
KNOWLEDGE OF PLO USE OF TANKS IN ATTACKS IN SOUTHERN
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LEBANON WHICH WERE REPORTED IN NEWS MEDIA 22 AUG.
ADDITIONALLY, ACTING DATT, TEL AVIV, COMMENTED THAT
"TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE AND THAT OF IDF, THERE
ARE NO PALESTINIAN TANKS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. IT
SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE MEDIA OFTEN TENDS TO REPORT
A VEHICLE WITH A GUN AS A TANK WHEN IT MIGHT ACTUALLY
BE A JEEP OR AN APC. WE EVALUATE SUCH MEDIA REPORTS

AS STANDARD EXAGGERATION."

4. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, ALL THREE SIDES (CHRISTIANS, PLO AND REJECTIONISTS) INITIATE ARTILLERY/MORTAR FIRES. OUR INFO INDICATES THAT THE REJECTIONISTS HAVE MORTARS AND ROCKETS BUT NO ARTILLERY. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI SOURCES, THE SIDE WHICH STARTS THIS FIRING THE MOST IS THE PLO. WE HAVE NO INFO TO EITHER CONFIRM OR DENY. THE PATTERN HAS BEEN THAT ONCE THE FIRING STARTS, EVERYONE JOINS IN, INCLUDING, AT TIMES, THE ISRAELIS. THE LEVEL AND CALIBER (105MM, 155MM AND 175MM) OF IDF FIRE USUALLY DEPENDS ON THE INTENSITY OF PLO AND REJECTIONIST FIRE. WE FEEL THAT MEDIA REPORTS AS TO LEVELS, TYPES AND INTENSITY OF FIRE ARE HABITUALLY EXAGGERATED.

5. THERE HAS BEEN NO INFORMATION FROM THE IDFN CONCERNING WHY THEY HAVE APPARENTLY DISCONTINUED INTERCEPTING SHIPS WITH ARMS FOR THE PALESTINIANS. WE SPECULATE THAT THE REASON IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE ISRAELIS FEEL THE SYRIANS ARE GENERALLY CONTROLLING THE STRENGTH OF THE PALESTINIANS SO AS TO MAINTAIN THEIR PARITY WITH THE CHRISTIANS. THE SYRIANS ARE KNOWN TO BE ALLOWING ARMS FOR THE PALESTINIANS TO FILTER THROUGH BY WAY OF LAND ROUTES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS AND SO THEY ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESUMABLY ALSO KEEPING TABS ON THE ARMS REACHING THE PALESTINIANS BY SEA. THEREFORE,WE THINK THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT AT THE MOMENT WORRIED ABOUT THE ARMS ARRIVING BY SEA SINCE IF THEY WERE STOPPED THE RE-SUPPLY BY LAND COULD EASILY BE INCREASED. THE ISRAELI REASONING SEEMS TO BE WHY RISK AND INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT BY INTERCEPTING A SHIP ON THE HIGH SEAS WHEN IT WOULD NOT ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING EXCEPT HARASSMENT. LEWIS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: MOPS, PINR, MARR, LE, IS
To: STATE
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